

The Valley Breeze



The Valley Breeze

The Valley Breeze is the official newsletter
for Valley Ridge and the
Valley Ridge Community Association

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VALLEY  RIDGE

Valley Ridge Community Association

Next Board meeting is TBD



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In Our Community

President's Farewell: Celebrating Success and Gratitude

Dear Community Members,

I'm delighted to share the outcome of our recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on April 29, 2024. This successful gathering was marked by engaging discussions, thoughtful insights, and a strong sense of unity among our community members.

During the meeting, we celebrated the achievements of the past year, including successful events like the community BBQ and our second Oktoberfest, further improvements to the rink, and community programs such as Music- and Yoga-in-the-arden, soccer, T-ball and the community garage sale. We also elected new members to the board of directors, ensuring continuity and fresh perspectives in our leadership.

If you are still considering whether to join, I say, "Just come try it!" Come for a visit at the start of the next meeting and get to know your neighbors.

To that end, as I reflect on the past five years serving as the vice president and president, I am so grateful for the opportunity to volunteer alongside such dedicated and passionate individuals. It has been a fantastic opportunity to get involved in my community, meet new people, and make a positive impact in the place I live.

It was therefore a difficult decision to announce at the AGM that I have decided to step down from my role on the board. It has been a privilege to act on behalf of this beautiful community in which I am fortunate enough to live, but I believe it is time for new leadership to guide our community forward. I am confident that the incoming leadership team will build upon our successes and lead our community to even greater heights.

I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your support, collaboration, and commitment to our community. It has been an honor to serve as a member of the executive board, and I will cherish the memories and friendships I have made.

As always, I encourage you to join as members of the Valley Ridge Community because it is unified together that will ensure our neighborhood continues to thrive and grow.

*Megan Roy, Former President,
Valley Ridge Community Association*

Citywide Residential Re-Zoning

We have attended a number of meetings to try to understand the Citywide Residential Re-Zoning Strategy.

Currently, single-detached homes are designated R-C1. The City is proposing to change this Land Use Resignation to Residential – Grade-Oriented Infill District, R-CG.

What Does That Mean?

This means that a single-detached home, semi-detached home, townhouses or row houses, and two secondary suites can be built on this lot.

- R-CG allows for the lot coverage to increase from 45% to 60%.
- It reduces front setback.
- There is no requirement for side setback.
- R-CG allows for an increase in height from 10 m to 11 m, so the building can be three stories.
- Two buildings are allowed on one lot.
- The parking requirements are 0.5 stalls per unit.

In the current zoning process, if the owner of a property designated as a single-detached home wants to build a building other than a single-detached home, the zoning must be changed. A public hearing must be held and affected residents can voice their opinion. In the new process, no re-zoning is necessary and no public hearing is required. Hence, no public input.

My House

So let's use my house as an example. My house is a single-detached home, which is currently designed as R-C1. If this change is approved and I sold my house to a developer, then a row housing development could occur on my lot. There would be no public engagement. There could be four units and four secondary suites. My current house occupies 35% of the land. The row housing could occupy 60% of the land, almost doubling the size of the building. There would be no space left for trees. There would be parking for two cars. I currently have parking for four cars. My front setback is currently 5.5 m. My side setback is 2 m. The side setback would be reduced to 0 m. The new building would be three stories, not two stories.

Neighbourhoods

Calgary is a city of neighborhoods, each with its own unique character. We are suggesting that Area plans, along with public engagement, be developed for all neighbourhoods in the City of Calgary. Density is

appropriate near transportation hubs and closer to the City core but is not appropriate in areas that lack the infrastructure to support dense populations.

The Valley Ridge Vision Statement

Valley Ridge, surrounded by nature, provides vibrant and peaceful community living, encouraging neighborly pride and caring for residents of all ages.

We believe this change would ruin our Valley Ridge Vision Statement.

Recommendations

We are recommending that the City abandon the blanket Citywide Residential re-zoning initiative.

We are recommending that Area plans, with public engagement, be developed for all neighbourhoods in the City of Calgary. These Area plans would identify specific area/sites to be re-zoned for duplex, townhouse, or row housing. Density is appropriate near LRT stations and closer to the City core but not at the outer edge of the City.

*Dave McCarrel, VRCA President
Merl Radke, VRCA Director of Planning*

Facilities Update

Mixed weather patterns both warm and cold extremes resulted in a challenging season for our icemaking and maintenance. The volunteer group spent hundreds of hours building the ice surface, only to have it deteriorate due to warm weather. The final closure for the season was March 8, the earliest ever. Many thanks to the volunteers and to our community residents who were very understanding and patient. The facility is certainly well used; it is great to see families of all ages enjoying time together.

Thanks to all who rented during the past season. Your patience with cancellations and rebooking was appreciated.

The volunteers have started some preparation for the summer season. We hope to have the sport court ready for early May. The group will again be completing daily inspections to ensure the facility is clean and safe.

Rentals will be available during the summer season in some areas of the sport court for birthday parties and family events. We encourage all community residents to buy memberships. Hope everyone has a great summer.

Window & Balcony Safety

With the return of warmer weather, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) would like to remind parents and caregivers of an often-overlooked hazard in the home – access to open windows. Every year, paramedics respond to emergencies where a child has fallen from an open window, often from the second floor. These can be mitigated by following safety measures. Take the time to assess potential window and balcony hazards in your home before a preventable fall occurs.

Windows and screens

- Prevent access to windows by moving furniture such as cribs, beds, stools, and change tables out from under them;
- Keep drapery cords out of childrens' reach. Wrap excess cord around cleats, or tie-downs to avoid a choking hazard;
- Remember, screens are not safety devices. They are designed to keep bugs out, not children in.



Balconies

- Do not underestimate a child's ability to climb. Furniture and other items stored on balconies and decks can be used to climb resulting in falls over the railing;
- Ensure that your balcony railings are not more than 10 cm (4 inch) apart. This will eliminate access between the vertical bars of a balcony, or deck.

Further prevention tips

- Toddlers & preschoolers are at highest risk of falling from a window, or balcony, but it may happen at any age;
- Direct supervision of children is the single most effective way to prevent falls from windows and balconies;
- Install safety devices which limit the distance in which a window be can open to a maximum of 10cm (4 inches);
- Ensure the safety device can be released quickly, so the window can be used for escape in case of emergency.
- Consider purchasing a portable air conditioner, which will enable windows to stay closed & secure.

Alberta Health Services

Sudoku Corner

The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits 1 – 9 only one time each.

2			8	5				
	1			2	9	7	8	
		3						
1		4						
7	6	8	2		5	3	1	4
						2		8
						6		
	8	2	6	4			3	
				7	3			5

Answer on Page 11

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Mother's day celebration was on May 12, 1907. It became an official holiday in 1914.



Community Garden Update

April snow showers bring May flowers and wonderful gardens! I am writing this article in early April during another snowstorm. I hope that when you read it, spring has truly arrived and the community gardeners are planting their seeds.



A Garden Meet-and-Greet Evening was held on April 4 with an enthusiastic turnout of gardeners. We enjoyed an excellent presentation by Joanna Tschudy, a Calgary-based horticulturist and landscape design specialist. Joanna is the owner of Inhabit Landscape Design & Consultation, where she brings together her background in horticulture and visual arts with her rich experiences of 25 years in the landscape and garden industry. Joanna shared her knowledge on building healthy soil and adapting our gardening practices to manage and conserve water.

Key Messages by Joanna for All Gardeners

1. Compost, compost, compost. The magic element of great gardening is the compost. Aged, screened compost is the best additive for heavy soils. It can also be used as a fertilizer and mulch.
2. Never leave your garden bed or box bare. Cover your soil. To prepare the garden for winter, pull out the plants and leave them on top of the soil. Or put down shredded paper or cardboard and cover with dirt.
3. Experiment! Try different techniques to garden. We are supposed to fail when gardening.

Quotes About Gardening to Inspire Us and Make Us Laugh

“The glory of gardening: hands in the dirt, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just the body, but the soul.”—Alfred Austin, English poet

“When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.”—Unknown

By volunteer Barb Pedersen

Councillor Report

Hello Ward 1! Here are the latest updates from City Hall and on what’s happening in your community:

Drought update

The drought conditions Calgary has been experiencing may mean that water restrictions could be put in place this month. We ask all Calgarians to observe any water restrictions put into place in order to protect our ecosystems and drinking water supply. Visit calgary.ca/drought to learn more.

Blanket rezoning

In April, Council held its Public Hearing on blanket rezoning to Calgary. A big thank you to everyone who participated. Regardless of the outcome, your voices made a difference. You can visit calgary.ca/ward1 to learn about the final result and for more information on what happens next.

Single-Use Items repeal

The Public Hearing to consider the repeal the Single Use Items Bylaw will take place on May 7. You are welcome to address Council to submit written feedback. Visit calgary.ca/publichearing to learn more. You can also visit calgary.ca/ward1 for further updates on this issue.

Street sweeping

Weather permitting, The City begins cleaning winter debris from our streets beginning in April and continuing through May. Sweeping happens Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4 pm. You are required to move vehicles off the street when a sweep is scheduled, or you could be ticketed and towed. Visit calgary.ca/sweep to learn when cleaning is scheduled for your neighbourhood.

Neighbour Day

Neighbour Day is coming up on Saturday, June 15! Consider hosting or visiting a Neighbour Day party for some family fun and a chance to connect with your neighbours. The City has a number of resources for a successful event at calgary.ca/neighbourday.

Waste collection reminder

Weekly pickups of Green Carts resumed for the season on April 23 and will remain in place until the fall. Visit calgary.ca/collection to set up pickup reminders and for important cart placement tips.

Sonya Sharp, Councillor, Ward 1

Park Cart Smart

When you set out your blue, green and black carts properly, you're helping to ensure safe and efficient operation of The City's waste collection trucks. That includes how you park on the street outside your home, especially in cul-de-sacs. A few simple reminders will help make everyone's day go smoothly:



- **Parking in a cul-de-sac:** All vehicles must be parallel parked with passenger side wheels to the curb, unless there are signs permitting angle parking. This helps collection trucks reach your carts and turn around in a cul-de-sac.
- Place your carts on flat ground, one metre away from your vehicle if parked on the street.
- Improperly parked vehicles block driveways for residents and restrict access for emergency and waste management vehicles.
- **Parking in an alley:** Do not block the end of a closed alley with parked vehicles. Collection trucks need space to turn around safely.

These simple but important steps help ensure safe and efficient cart collection.

Learn more at calgary.ca/cartplacement.

City of Calgary

Sudoku Corner Solution

2	7	6	8	5	4	1	9	3
4	1	5	3	2	9	7	8	6
8	9	3	1	6	7	4	5	2
1	2	4	7	3	8	5	6	9
7	6	8	2	9	5	3	1	4
3	5	9	4	1	6	2	7	8
9	3	7	5	8	2	6	4	1
5	8	2	6	4	1	9	3	7
6	4	1	9	7	3	8	2	5

LEAF Update

It's the beginning of our next season! We are so excited to see some plants, flowers, and greenery. In May, we should start to see the beginning of our landscaping, with our landscaping company beginning our spring cleanup. We expect to have the boulevards swept, garbage collected, and aerating to be done. Depending on the weather, we will either see our flowers planted into the self-watering containers at the end of May or beginning of June. The plantings depend on both weather and availability of our gardeners, but we have high hopes that they will flourish. We are very happy that we opted for more self-watering containers this year.

We are still working on our traffic-circle landscaping plans, so hopefully we will be able to update the community in the next few months.

Christa McKegney, Chair of LEAF

Community Events Update

May is the month for both the pathway cleanup and the garage sale!

The pathway cleanup will be held on the first Saturday of the month, Saturday, May 4. Please consider coming out to help! We encourage families to come out to the skate shed for 9 a.m. We will provide nitrile gloves and garbage bags, and will assign volunteers to specific areas of the community for garbage pick-up after our winter season. The event lasts from 9 a.m.–12 p.m. We appreciate all volunteers helping out.

The garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 25. This is over the long weekend. We advertise the community garage sale for the residents, but everyone has their own garage sale in their homes. We recommend starting between 8 a.m.–9 a.m., and finishing up around 1 p.m. Lists of participating houses will be provided.



VALLEY RIDGE NOTICE BOARD

WILLING WORKERS IN VALLEY RIDGE: The Vice President maintains a list of people willing to do odd jobs or babysit for families within Valley Ridge and Crestmont. People have offered to do a variety of things such as shovel snow, house watch, walk pets, dig flower beds and mow lawns. The babysitter list notes whether the sitter has taken the babysitting course, whether they are comfortable with babies and the general location where they live. If you would like a copy of the either of these lists, please contact vicepresident@vrca.community.

Classifieds

Ads are \$10 per month for 40 words maximum. Payment is required in advance in the form of cash or cheque payable to "VRCA". Please drop off or mail in care of The Valley Breeze Classifieds Editor, 252 Valley Crest Rise NW, T3B 5Y4. Online payments are now accepted at www.vrca.community/index.php/advertisement. Ads must be received by the classifieds editor by the 5th of the preceding month. For more information, contact Janine at breezeads@vrca.community. The Valley Breeze does not endorse or guarantee the businesses or individuals that advertise in the Classifieds.

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Note: All phone numbers begin with 403

VRCA 695-7533
VRCA website vrca.community
VRCA Facebook Valley Ridge Community Association

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PLAZEBO

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Valley Ridge Family Physicians		282-3806
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Valley Ridge Chiropractic & Wellness Centre	www.vrchirowellness.ca	202-1114
Valley Ridge Psychologist: Dr. Tanja Haley	www.drktanja.com	669-0005
Van Gogh Grill & Bar		288-9664
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OTHER

Calgary Public Library www.calgarypubliclibrary.com
Bowness 221-2022 Crowfoot 221-4122
Community Resource Officer Cst. Qiu 428-6200
POL5637@calgarypolice.ca
Calgary Police Nonemergency 266-1234
Lodge at Valley Ridge www.lodgeatvalleyridge.ca 286-4414
Valley Ridge Golf Club www.valleyridgegolf.com 221-9682

VRCA

Membership Update

2024 VRCA Memberships are available for purchase!

It's that time of year again—the 2024 VRCA Memberships will be available starting on December 1, 2023. Please take a moment to renew your household membership early to maximize your benefits in the new year!

There are two ways to purchase or renew your annual membership:


- Visit <https://www.vrca.community/memberships/>
- Drop the form on the back page of the Breeze, as well as the \$35 membership fee, into the mail. Once your membership is processed, you'll receive an email confirmation for your records.

The VRCA is a community-based volunteer organization that supports recreation facilities and community events that help make Valley Ridge the amazing place we call home. Membership fees and volunteers help ensure that our community members have access to a variety of information, programs and amenities, including:

- Construction, operation, and maintenance of the community facilities, including the skating rink, sports court, and fitness park;
- Community Garage Sale, Family Skate Days, Oktoberfest and BBQ;
- Community Garden;
- Music- and Yoga-in-the-Park;
- Soccer and T-ball; and
- A direct liaison between the Board and City representatives, ensuring that the community is up-to-date on the latest developments.

If your neighbours aren't members yet, please encourage them to join so we can continue to be the vibrant community we are today! This year we had our highest membership numbers on record, and we hope to eclipse that in 2024!

Please contact memberships@vrca.community if you have any questions or concerns.



I would like to become a member of the
Valley Ridge Community Association

NEW **RENEWAL**

VRCA occasionally emails members with community event information.

I consent to receive emails from VRCA

I do not wish to receive emails from VRCA

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Mail with \$35 cheque payable to VRCA:
Valley Ridge Community Association – attn.: Director of Memberships
11743 Valley Ridge Blvd NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 5Z9